

# FARMING PAYS IN NEBRASKA

Result of Actual Experience of Pioneer Settlers as Told by Themselves.

THEY ARE ENERGETIC AND PROSPEROUS

Men Who Came Here Poor and Have Won Competency by Their Efforts—Stories Which Confute the Calamity Crank's Howls.

One of the set phrases much used by pessimistic politicians of late years relates to the impoverished condition of the farmer—especially the western farmer—and the utter impossibility of his thriving under existing laws and conditions. It has never occurred to these people who shriek so loudly about the oppression of the agricultural class that the best answer to their extravagant utterances could be given by the farmers themselves. It has come to be quite the thing for folks who are not well informed to refer to the farmer's hand-to-mouth struggle for existence and to bemoan his sad financial plight, until many farmers themselves have been persuaded that they do indeed suffer beneath onerous laws and are respelled of a prosperity which is richly their own. How very different is the truth!

No one will undertake to say that the farmer has no grievances. The Bee has too often pointed out his real wrongs as distinguished from the imaginary ones which his self-appointed advocates have multiplied and magnified until the husbandman of today is prone to exclaim with the oft-quoted farmer of U: "I am escaped by the skin of my teeth."

Farming does pay, however, where properly pursued. Let the amount of energy and business ability necessary to success in any other pursuit or calling be brought to bear upon a farm, and the result is success. This is not guesswork. It is simply a statement of an established fact. The Bee has interviewed hundreds of farmers, all over the state of Nebraska, and takes pleasure in giving their statements publicly.

## SIXTEEN THOUSAND IN EIGHT YEARS.

Clear Profit of a Hamilton County Farmer—Opinions Formed on Facts.

AURORA, Neb., March 5.—In answer to the inquiry "Does farming in Hamilton county pay?" E. J. Higgins says: "I have been in Kendall county, Illinois, and in Noaway county, Missouri, both extra good farming countries, but I consider Hamilton county, Nebraska, equal to either for general farming purposes. I know that money can be made here by intelligent and judicious management."

Mr. Higgins came to this county from Noaway county, Missouri, in 1883, bringing with him a capital of \$7,000. He invested \$4,000 in 320 acres of land, which he brought under cultivation and improved. Later he bought 160 acres more for which he paid \$1,000. He now owns 480 acres, all of which he has brought under cultivation and improved. He has a fine farm of 480 acres, within four miles of Aurora, is worth \$19,000, while in personal property he possesses fourteen head of horses, 140 head of cattle, 100 head of sheep, implements, etc., worth \$8,000, making the grand total value of his property \$27,000. He has advanced to the value of his land—\$4,000, the amount of his capital when he came here—\$7,000, and the result is a net profit on his farming operations for eight years of \$16,000.

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his land is \$4,000, so that his net profit on farming is \$7,000. In 1891 he raised 220 bushels of corn, yielding 3,000 bushels, and 100 acres of oats yielding 3,000 bushels.

Mr. Hanawald says: "I think the chance of making money here is as good, if not better, than in any farming country I have ever been in."

Mr. Hanawald was born and reared in New York. From there he moved to Michigan where he remained six years and then went to Texas, where he engaged in sheep raising. He remained there seven years, but the climate did not agree with his wife's health, so he sold out in 1883 and came to Nebraska, locating on Lincoln creek in Hamilton county. He brought with him \$7,000 in cash. His farm consists of 320 acres, 480 acres of which are under fence and ninety-five acres in tame grass. The total cost of this is \$9,500. The farm is now worth \$16,000. His personal property, above all indebtedness, is \$4,000, making his net assets \$20,000. From this deduct his capital at starting—\$7,000, and his gross profit on his farming operations, and he has a net profit of \$13,000, and it will be seen that Mr. Hanawald's return for his seven years' labor in his country is \$13,000.

"Yes, sir; there is no doubt about that. There is no discount on Hamilton county as a farming country," says Mr. Hanawald, who is one of the very early settlers in this county, having arrived here in 1871. He is a native of "Old Kentucky," emigrating from there in 1850, and settling on a farm in Nebraska. When he landed here he had a team, wagon, etc., and \$100 in cash.

Profits of a Pioneer.

He took a government homestead of 160 acres, which he afterwards sold for \$2,000, including improvements. He has since purchased 240 acres, for which he paid \$1,500. He raised last year 93 acres of corn, yielding 4,000 bushels, 10 acres of wheat, 40 bushels of oats, 3,000 bushels, and 60 acres of tame grass. His farm is now worth \$8,500. His personal property, above all indebtedness, is \$3,000. Deduct his capital at starting—\$2,500, and he has a net profit of \$9,000. The increase in the value of his land, less cost of improvements, is \$1,500, leaving a net profit on his operations \$8,500.

B. F. Isaman is a member of the board of county commissioners and a first class farmer. He has a fine farm of 480 acres, within four miles of Aurora, is worth \$19,000, while in personal property he possesses fourteen head of horses, 140 head of cattle, 100 head of sheep, implements, etc., worth \$8,000, making the grand total value of his property \$27,000. He has advanced to the value of his land—\$4,000, the amount of his capital when he came here—\$7,000, and the result is a net profit on his farming operations for eight years of \$16,000.

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he harvested, corn 155 acres, 6,200 bushels; oats, 250 acres, 3,700 bushels; flax, 150 acres, 150 bushels; tame grass, sixteen acres, yielding forty-five tons. His farm is worth over all indebtedness, at a conservative valuation, \$10,000. His personal property is \$2,500. His gain by advance in land is \$3,500, leaving his net profit on farming at \$7,000.

Leon H. Hansen's experience has led him to the belief that "this is a fine farming country, and a man can make money in the business if he looks after his interests."

Mr. Hansen is a Dane and came to America about twenty years ago. He farmed in Illinois ten years and then came to Hamilton county with about \$5,000. He has purchased at different times, and now owns 400 acres of land, with improvements, \$8,500; 340 acres of the 400 are under fence. His farm is now worth \$13,000 and his personal property \$3,000. His gain by advance in land is some \$3,500, leaving his net profit on his farm at \$7,000.

## HOW IT GOES IN GAGE.

Half a Dozen of the County's Farmers Tell How They Raise a Bank Account.

Harvey, Neb., March 6.—Few counties in the state can present a greater number of thrifty and prosperous farmers than beautiful Gage. The county is one of the best located and is perhaps the best all-around agricultural county in the state. The Blue river traverses its entire length, and this is in turn fed by numerous living streams, many of them rising to the dignity of small rivers. The soil is exceptional and every crop is produced to the fullest parallel of latitude is successfully grown.

That farming pays in Nebraska, and especially in Gage county, is demonstrated by the large number of successful and well satisfied farmers found within its territory. The Bee representative caught a few of them on the wing recently and evolved the following:

George Kraner.—Well, I have no good reason to complain about my farming experience in Nebraska. I came to the state in 1871, locating in Clatsop county. I homesteaded my first quarter, and subsequently bought 100 acres at \$1 per acre, and another 100 acres at \$1.50 per acre. I now own 400 acres, which I value at \$400 per acre. Of this I am farming 300 acres. Last season I harvested 3,000 bushels of oats, which brought me 25 cents per bushel. Of course I sold at a sufficient price for my own use. I put in 180 acres of corn, which harvested an average of 50 bushels to the acre. I sold all 1,000 bushels, which I reserved for feed, at an average of 20 cents per bushel. There is not the slightest question but that farming is a very profitable business, if properly managed. I do not make a specialty of feeding stock, keeping only a few head of cattle, and my own milk and butter. I have made enough of my farm to keep me in comfort the remainder of my days.

A gentleman who for obvious reasons does not wish his name given, gives this version of his experience: I came to Beatrice May 1, 1880. I have been in town four years, then moved to a farm. Since that time I have been farming and raising vegetables, etc., and have made money at it, and consider myself successful. When I arrived here I had \$7 in cash. I first bought town property, and then sold and went on to the farm. I have since bought 100 acres of land, which I have cultivated. Seven acres of oats averaged me fifty bushels per acre, which I have kept for feed. Fifteen acres of corn yielded me fifty bushels per acre, which I sold for \$1.50 per bushel. I raised also this season 1,000 bushels of sweet potatoes, which I have sold at 75 cents per bushel. Five acres of cabbage netted me \$50 per acre; four acres of Hubbard squash, \$30 per acre; and four acres of melons, \$20 per acre. I also raised 100 bushels of melons, which I sold at \$1.00 per bushel, besides raising a few head of stock for my own use. I raised several head of cattle, and have sold three tons to the acre, for which I found ready sale at \$5 per ton. Aside from all this I had my garden stock, such as peas, beans, etc., and the old time market garden. I have from all of which I made a fair profit. I consider farming a very profitable business. At the time I commenced farming I was \$200 in debt. Now I am in a fair way to redeem myself.

L. E. Denney.—I came to Nebraska from Illinois in March of 1881. I had a team worth \$200, one cow worth \$25, and a horse worth \$10. I bought 100 acres of land, which I have cultivated. Seven acres of oats averaged me fifty bushels per acre, which I have kept for feed. Fifteen acres of corn yielded me fifty bushels per acre, which I sold for \$1.50 per bushel. I raised also this season 1,000 bushels of sweet potatoes, which I have sold at 75 cents per bushel. Five acres of cabbage netted me \$50 per acre; four acres of Hubbard squash, \$30 per acre; and four acres of melons, \$20 per acre. I also raised 100 bushels of melons, which I sold at \$1.00 per bushel, besides raising a few head of stock for my